

REMARKS

Claims 1-64 are now pending.

Applicant amends the specification at page 10, lines 19-24 to correct typographical and grammatical errors. In particular, the specification incorrectly states that the glass wool fiber, rather than the chopped glass fiber, should contain high amounts of calcium and aluminum oxide. As shown in the table on page 12 of the specification, the chopped glass fibers contains higher amounts of calcium and aluminum oxides. Accordingly, no new matter is added.

Applicant also amends claim 59 and adds new claims 63 and 64. Claim 59 is amended to correct a typographical error, and in particular to replace the term sodium with calcium. Claim 63 recites a nonwoven filter media composite formed from glass wool fibers essentially free of boron, and chopped glass fibers essentially free of boron interspersed throughout the wool fibers and having an average fiber diameter in the range of about 5.0 microns to 9.0 microns. Claim 63 further requires the filter media to have a crease tensile strength value of at least about 2.5 lb/inch. Applicant also adds new claim 64, which depends from claim 63 and which recites that the crease tensile strength diminishes less than about 50% over a period of 48 hours. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, for example at page 16, lines 21-30, and in originally filed claim 1.


The Examiner rejected pending claims 1-62 in a final Office Action dated May 6, 2003, and Applicant filed a Response to the final Office Action on July 28, 2003. In a telephone conversation with Examiner Wachtel on September 16, 2003, the Examiner agreed that the remarks filed on July 28, 2003 were sufficient to overcome the rejection of record. However, the Examiner has indicated that he may cite new art to reject the claims as being obvious.

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Accordingly, to establish that the pending claims define patentable subject matter, Applicant submits herewith a Declaration of Mary Pierce which is believed to place this application in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-64 is therefore respectfully requested. Applicant encourages the Examiner to telephone the undersigned in the event that such communication might expedite prosecution of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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